

EnergySolutions: Safety Evaluation Report

Notice for Public Comment on EnergySolutions Depleted Uranium Performance Assessment Safety Evaluation Report

The Director of the Division of Radiation Control is requesting public comment on the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for the Depleted Uranium Performance Assessment (DUPA) for the EnergySolutions Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) Disposal Facility, located in Clive, Tooele County, Utah.

Radioactive materials Licensee Information

Name: EnergySolutions, LLC

License Number: UT 2300249

Facility Location: Clive, Tooele County, Utah

In 2010, the Utah Radiation Control Board completed rulemaking to require a site-specific performance assessment for disposal of large quantities of concentrated depleted uranium. See Utah Administrative Code (Utah Admin. Code) R313-25-9(5) (previously R313-25-8(5)). See the Depleted Uranium, Performance Assessment Web Site.

Under the rule, a performance assessment needs to demonstrate that the radioactive waste land disposal facility will, for the disposal of large quantities of concentrated depleted uranium, meet the performance standards specified in Utah Admin. Code R313-25-9(5)(a). The rule also prohibits disposal of significant quantities of concentrated depleted uranium until the Director of the Division of Radiation Control reviews and approves the performance assessment.

In conjunction with this rule, an amendment was made to the EnergySolutions radioactive materials license by adding license condition 35. This license condition requires EnergySolutions to prepare and submit a performance assessment for approval prior to the disposal of large quantities of concentrated depleted uranium.

In compliance with the rule and license condition, EnergySolutions has now completed and submitted to the Director for approval an in-depth, site-specific performance assessment in support of its proposal to dispose of up to 700,000 metric tons of depleted uranium, including 3,577 metric tons of depleted uranium waste received by EnergySolutions in 2009 from the Savannah River Site, South Carolina and stored pending the outcome of rulemaking and review of the performance assessment. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has reviewed and commented on the DUPA with two preliminary completeness reviews, three rounds of interrogatories, as well as additional requests for more detailed information. The facility responded to the above inquiries, with the following revised items:

Probabilistic model used to assess the adequacy of disposal of concentrated depleted uranium

Compliance report

Supplemental answers to DEQ technical questions regarding infiltration rates and unsaturated flow characteristics of the proposed evapotranspirative cover, as well as other technical and regulatory matters

Radon fluxes resulting from potential structural changes to the waste disposal embankment in deep time (i.e., greater than 10,000 years from now) due to pluvial lakes.

These inquiries and responses culminated in the preparation of the SER, in which, based on the above technical discussions, recommendations are made for all aspects of the DUPA. DEQ has not at this time made a formal recommendation or determination regarding EnergySolutions' proposal. Based on this SER/DUPA and comments that are received during this public comment period, the Director of the Division of Radiation Control will decide whether or not to issue a license amendment allowing EnergySolutions to dispose of large volumes of concentrated depleted uranium.

The public comment period to receive comments on the SER/DUPA will commence on April 13, 2015 and end on May 29, 2015. Public meetings have been scheduled on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Tooele County Courthouse, 47 South Main Street, Tooele, Utah, and Thursday, May 7, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Board Room #1015, 195 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah. Both public meetings will be preceded by an informational meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Documents related to this SER/DUPA can be reviewed at the following location:

Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste

Multi Agency State Office Building

195 North 1950 West, 2nd Floor

Salt Lake City, Utah

For the public's convenience, a copy of the SER/DUPA and all other formally submitted documentation relevant to the DUPA will be available on the Depleted Uranium, Performance Assessment Web site on April 13, 2015.

Written comments will be accepted if received by 5:00 p.m. on May 29, 2015 and should be submitted to the address below. Comments can also be hand delivered to the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste at the above address and will need to be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 29, 2015.

Mr. Helge Gabert, Project Manager, DU Contract

Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste

Department of Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 144880

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4880

Comments can also be sent by electronic mail. Comments sent in electronic format should be identified by putting the following in the subject line: Public comment on SER/DUPA. All documents included in comments should be submitted as Word files, text files (RTF format) or in pdf format.

Responses to public comments will not be responded to individually by mail; however, all comments will be listed, together with their responses, on the Depleted Uranium, Performance Assessment web site

Under Utah Code Section 19-1-301.5, a person who wishes to challenge a license amendment may only raise an issue or argument during an adjudicatory proceeding that was also raised during the public comment period and was supported with sufficient information or documentation to enable the Director to fully consider the substance and significance of the issue.

For further information, please contact Helge Gabert of the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste at 801-536-0215. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) should contact Dana Powers, Office of Human Resources, at 801-499-2117, TDD 801-536-4414.